

3/12/07

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
March 12, 2007**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members:**

Sue M. Adams  
William P. Allen, PhD  
Collier Baird  
Earl S. Beck, PhD  
Mary S. Bevard-Cline, Rec. Sec.  
Rae Ann Butler  
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair  
Lloyd Hoover  
Alan E. Imhoff, Alderman  
Charles A. Jenkins,  
Commissioner  
Ona M. John Kile  
Louise Lynch  
Margaret Nusbaum  
Bernice Sewell  
Burt Shawver  
Susan Shelton  
Anna Mary Snyder  
Carolyn True

**Excused**

Judy Hallman

**Unexcused:**

**Guests:**

Robert Wannemacher,  
AARP  
Nicole M. Bohrer-  
Banzhoff, LNHA,  
Administrator Citizens  
Care and Rehab Center  
Jerry Miller  
Anita Stup  
Don Linton  
John Kroll

- I. **Call to Order** – Hal Ehart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Hal Ehart welcomed all attendees and introductions/affiliations were then made.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the February 12, 2007 meeting were approved on a motion by Rae Ann Butler and seconded by Lloyd Hoover. All were in favor.
- IV. **Commissioner's Comments** – No report
- V. **Historical Perspective of Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center and Operational Expenses** – Hal Ehart indicated that this presentation will be an opportunity to get a perspective on the history, idea on the operations, and to educate ourselves on resources available in the county. Former County Commissioner, Anita Stup, indicated the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners founded the Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center of Frederick County as a nursing home in 1976. The first residents were admitted on December 7, 1976. The facility was built to house 120 residents. State-of-the-art for its time, the building cost \$2.5 million to build and equip and required the employment of 40 staff members. The land was donated to the County in 1984 for the poor. It was noted that former CoA Director, Patricia Throne, was instrumental in working closely with Commissioner Lawrence Dorsey in seeing the building become a reality. The nursing home was a place where those receiving benefits from Medicare and Medicaid could be cared for when they could no longer be cared for at home. An additional wing added 50 beds to the mix for a total of 170 licensed beds. Thousands of residents from Frederick and surrounding areas have been cared for throughout the years.

The word on the street is that the BOCC are considering privatizing and people are concerned about job stability. The employees are county employees, which results in a decrease in turnover that may result in a higher level of patient care.

A feasibility study began in 1988 and the final report was completed in April 2006. Construction was to have started in 2006 with an anticipated 2 years to completion. The facility is antiquated and does not meet the needs of today's patients. People are living longer and, with the baby boomers coming of age, there are more demands for state-of-the-art facilities to meet their needs. Seven years ago, experts recommended tearing down the old building and constructing a new facility. Currently, the project is at 50% design completion.

The funding mix was reviewed in that 85% funding comes from Medicaid and 15% is private pay. Medicare is short-term coverage for 30 days.

It was noted that the county has competing needs and insufficient funds. The capital side is \$33 million to build and \$2½ million per year operating costs. The recordation tax has not increased to pay for this facility. Change orders have outstripped the recordation tax. \$1.6 million was allocated to keep this project moving forward.

Montevue is operated with county money. They receive the clients' Social Security and maintain all but \$60.00 per person for the clients' incidental needs. The current occupancy can accommodate 60 clients. The new facility will accommodate 74 clients, an increase of 14 beds. They are at full capacity.

Citizens Nursing Home occupancy allows for 170 occupants but some beds were shelved as a budget saving effort. They maintain 150 beds with a current occupancy of 145.

Susan Shelton questioned the supporting statistics in that 80% is Medicare and 20% is private pay. Rae Ann Butler indicated that Edenton's ratio is 40% private pay, 40% Medicaid and 20% Medicare.

Commissioner Jenkins stated that we have not looked at someone other than the government to build this project. He indicated it is not a done deal, it will get built but Linganore High School is in desperate need of renovations. He expressed his concern that the cost from 15% to 50% design has increased by \$5.7 million.

Pete Allen reiterated that the county should be as committed as it was originally. He doesn't see how we can avoid, as taxpayers, the responsibility to see that this project gets done.

Nicole Bohrer-Banhoff, Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center Administrator reviewed some of the new amenities the new building will have such as:

- Three residential levels.
- Seventy-six private rooms.
- Semi-private rooms that will house 2 beds separated with walls to afford optimum privacy to separate the residents' living space from each other. The rooms are also larger to accommodate wheelchairs, medical equipment, etc.

- Bathing areas that will accommodate one resident at a time to address privacy needs.
- A secure Dementia Unit to accommodate 46 patients with a courtyard to include a circular track, as Alzheimer's patients tend to roam in a circular pattern.
- Outpatient rehabilitation services.
- A ventilator unit.
- Oxygen services in every patient room.
- Each floor will feature a family-style dining room with group activity areas.
- Cozy living areas where residents have access to the Internet, watch television, work on puzzles or relax near large windows with mountain views.
- Conference rooms to provide meeting space for community groups, events, and residents' families to more conveniently celebrate birthdays and other special events together.
- Enlarge the kitchen to accommodate Department of Aging programs in the future.
- Space flexibility for future needs.
- Pharmacy services are not included at this time as they are currently contracted.

Nicole reiterated that the services would be in alignment to revenues. Changes are happening minute-by-minute and so much faster than in the past. The Mission Statement remains the same in that they will accept people regardless of payment resources. Most referrals come from the hospital, community referrals, other assisted living facilities and on-site visits. The average person admitted is an 82 year old, Caucasian female, widowed and in need of financial support.

Collier Baird stated he felt Frederick County is right on course with their plans for expansion and upgrades to this facility. He stated Nicole is growing Medicare, Medicaid, and private payers, which is going to ultimately offset the initial costs. When he worked in Lynchburg, VA, the ratio was 20% Medicare, 50% Medicaid and 30% private pay.

Margaret Nusbaum questioned if there is any data that depicts all of the facilities and the services they provide? It was noted that this information is available on the MD web site for the entire state.

A study of Frederick County incomes indicated that the average annual income for persons between 25 and 65 is \$75,000. After retirement, 60% of the population's annual income decreased to \$40,000 with the remainder of the population decreasing to \$27,000. We are at the mercy of government regulations and the rates of Medicare/Medicaid.

Louise Lynch reiterated that the need is always going to be there, people are living longer and skill levels are increasing. Many homes have a benevolence fund to help those that run out funds. There are 5 counties in MD that support nursing homes. Immigrants do not qualify. The census factors in to the overall process.

Alan Imhoff stated that only 16% of county money goes to this project. He expressed that he is hopeful other organizations will participate in this much-needed expansion to keep the citizens of Frederick County from going outside of the county or state to meet their needs.

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The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 9, 2007, 1:00 pm at the Frederick County Department of Aging, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702. Please mark your calendars.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Bevard-Cline,  
Recording Secretary